



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Fall/Winter, 2002

FIRE HEADQUARTERS: 1595 County Services Parkway

Cobb Fire is settling into a new home for its Headquarters Operations. The new 17,400 square foot structure will be a state-of-the-art facility that should meet the needs of the department for at least 20 years.

CCFES had long outgrown the previous building, which opened in August of 1983. The new facility is a far cry from Cobb Fire's very meager beginnings in 1971, when Headquarters operated out of a converted chicken house off South Cobb Drive.

Training classrooms were originally housed at Administration, along with CEMA and Fire Investigations.



Some new features of the new building include:
Secured/restricted key card access.
Capacity for approximately 85 personnel.
Digital phone system with 99 phone lines and voice mail.
T1 internet.
Fiber network lines.
Fire operations EOC with 100-foot communications tower, radio room and remote weather siren system access.

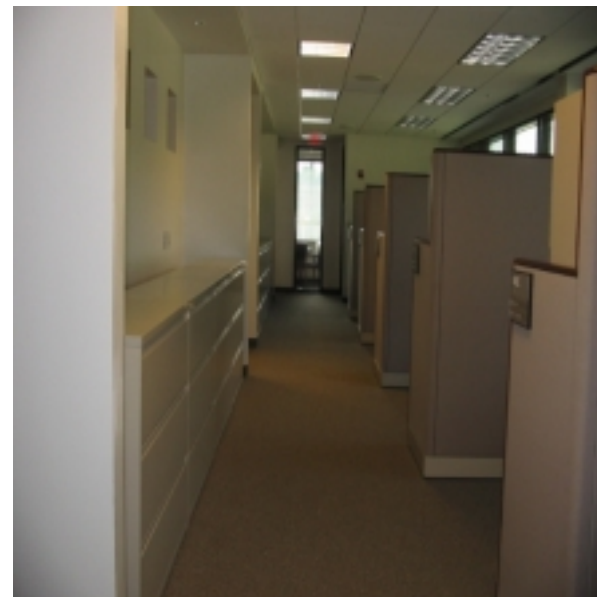
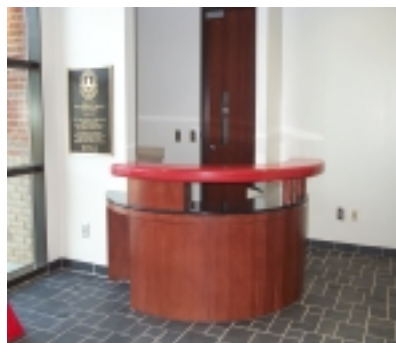


Clockwise from top to bottom:
The CCFES Maltese Seal on the front of the building, front elevation, reception desk, multipurpose room and lobby area.

Storage warehouse for equipment, such as turnout gear.
3 conference rooms with a multi-purpose room.
Shower facilities.
Combination of office and cubicle space.
Computer-controlled thermostats.
Parking spaces for nearly 100 vehicles.
The South lot has reinforced asphalt for parking fire apparatus.

Fire & Life Safety Education has now moved back into Headquarters. Most phone numbers (except fax numbers) remain the same, but the street address has changed from 1596 to 1595 County Services Parkway.

(Open House pictures on page 4)



Above: The workspaces in the new building are a combination of private offices and cubicle workstations, with common storage and filing areas.

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SPECIAL INSERT:

Fire Headquarters

Phone & Fax Listing

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
1595 County Services Pkwy.
Marietta, GA 30080-4021

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

CHECK OUT: www.cobbfire.org

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Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Department of Public Safety facilities, then placed on the server for Fire Administration Common Files under "Smoke Signal".

This issue will also be uploaded to our website: www.cobbfire.org

The Smoke Signal is for employees and friends of Cobb Fire. If you would like to see a subject covered in future issues or would like to submit items for possible future publication, please forward to Fire Administration Staff.

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2002 RECRUIT SCHOOL

Sam Abercrombie
Sue Addyman
Keith Bassett
Jarrod Cochran
Jim Crawford
Marcus Cromartie
Sean Doran
Matt Edwards
Jon Frederick
David Todd Graham
Jeffrey Grullon
Ryan Hardage
Ellis Jones
David Pearson
Terrance Roy
Mark Thurmond



2002



2002 PROMOTIONS:

Wayne White	EMS Training Coordinator
GL Stanfield	Fire Insp. II
WD Stephens	Fire Insp. I
SC Mize	Fire Insp. I
MD Beard	FFII
DJ Carlson	FFII
CS Collins	FFII
SN Cook	FFII
RR Da Camara	FFII
KL Elrod	FFII
A Fowles	FFII
JT Fox	FFII
JM Gallups	FFII
TL Heard Jr.	FFII
EJ Henson	FFII
BJ Holley	FFII
JM Horsley	FFII
R Jenkins	FFII
MT King	FFII
RW Nichols Jr.	FFII
BP Patterson	FFII
JN Robinson	FFII
NL Smith	FFII
MJ Wiczorek	FFII
MA Willingham	FFII
TN Woody	FFII
JP Bennett	FFIII
RK Clay	FFIII
GC Godfrey	FFIII
GL Michaels	FFIII
NJ Adams	Engineer
RR Burnett	Engineer
AW Carroll	Engineer
ML Cooksey	Engineer
CR Crumbley	Engineer
KC Gross	Engineer
RJ Hamby	Engineer
IP Martin	Engineer
NR Shur	Engineer
BL Whaley	Engineer
CG Brandt	Lieutenant
RG Callihan	Lieutenant
JF delRosario	Lieutenant
MT Freeman	Lieutenant
CE Baird	Captain
RG Fagan	Captain
JA Gabelman	Captain
JS Dunn	Battalion Chief

2002 RETIREMENTS:

Larry Cantrell	FFII
Byron Cole	Lieutenant
Richard Croft	Lieutenant
Van Cunningham	Lieutenant
Doug Duncan	FFIII
Jerry DuPree	Captain
Wes Durham	Fire Investigator II
Jim Greer	Battalion Chief
Melvin Holton	FFIII
Zahid Hussain	FFII
Royce Morris	Lieutenant
Nick McAlpine	Captain
Dick Seyler	FFII
Jerry Sowders	FFII

AWARDS:

Chief Becky Denlinger received the "Fire Official of the Year" award on October 10, 2002. This award was presented by State Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner John Oxendine, choosing Chief Denlinger for her exemplary leadership at the local, state and federal levels of the fire service.

Firefighter Melissa Larson of Station 22 B Shift was honored by the South Cobb Chamber of Commerce on October 16, 2002. Melissa was chosen to be honored for her contibutions to the local community and efforts in numerous charitable events, such as the March of Dimes Relay for Life and the Women in the Fire Service Golf Tournament. Melissa also serves on the CISM Team and Safety Review Board, and teaches Fire & Life Safety to 1st grade public school students.

The North Cobb Rotary Club honored crews from Engine 11 and Rescue 24 on October 31 for their actions on a full arrest call on September 6. The Engine 11 crew members honored were: Lt. Tim McWilliams, Engr. Danny Jordan, FF Gary Chastain, FF Sam Abercrombie II. The Rescue 24 crew members honored were: FF Jeffrey Gregory and FF J.T. Bryant.

Engineer Will Callier has received several awards for his heroic actions and injuries sustained on June 8 while attempting to rescue the trapped occupants of an overturned vehicle in Florida. While trying to free an accident victim in the overturned truck just north of Orlando, a tractor-trailer struck Will and 2 other rescuers. Will sustained serious leg injuries, but tragically, the other 2 rescuers were killed. Those victims were a Florida firefighter and a doctor. Will has been honored by receiving awards from the Atlanta 300 Club, and was nominated for the Cobb Public Safety Employee of the Year. He received the Cobb Chamber of Commerce Medal of Valor, and was also one of 16 recipients of the Governor's Public Safety Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession.

The Cobb Chamber of Commerce honored Captain David Blount with the 2002 "Public Safety Employee of the Year" award for his actions on a tunnel collapse call, as well as his exemplary career and daily leadership within our department.

Engineer Chris Starnes was honored by the East Cobb Rotary Club in May for his "Service Above Self." The award was for consistently exceeding expectations and going that "Extra Mile."

Pictured right: Captain Jerry Dupree shares a laugh with Larry Cantrell and Gordon Michaels at his retirement.

Cobb Public Safety Director James Arrowood was also one of the 16 recipients of the Governor's Public Safety Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession. Director Arrowood has worked his way up the ranks of the Cobb Police Department, working in nearly every assignment within the department prior to his appointment as Director in 1999. He has been responsible for a number of major initiatives to improve technology, equipment, and conditions within Cobb DPS.

NFPA 1710
By Deputy Chief Sam Heaton

In August 2001, NFPA 1710 was approved as a national standard. 1710 is the "Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments." It specifies the criteria for effective and efficient operations of fire supression, EMS, and special operations. It also addresses the strategic and system issues involving the organization and deployment of a fire department's resources.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) requires a department to have written staffing and deployment standards, and it is our intention to use NFPA 1710 as a starting point for establishing these standards for our agency.

As with any NFPA standard, a department can choose to adopt 1710 in its entirety, or use any portions of the standard that meet their local needs. Our department has established a committee that meets on a regular basis to evaluate 1710 for the purpose of making recommendations to the Command Staff.

NFPA 1710 Committee members include: Battalion Chief Jim Dunn
Captain Chris Hilton
Captain Todd Ellerbee
Captain Jon Redwine
Fire Engineer Keith Schneider

If you have suggestions or ideas that you would like the committee to consider, please contact Captain Chris Hilton at Station 16 "C" Shift.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS by Lt. Jeff Moss

It's that time again to field some of the questions you have submitted. I appreciate your interest, and hope you keep them coming! With some help from Chief Denlinger and Deputy Chief Heaton, I hope I was able to clear up some issues many of you have raised. Please continue to keep an open line of communication going. Any inquiries may be sent to me at Station 23 "A" Shift.

Q1: If police officers are permitted to work part-time jobs in uniform and in County police cars, why can't firefighters do the same, at venues such as fairs, softball tournaments, etc?

A1: First, here's some insight into the part-time work performed by Cobb County and other law enforcement officers. When a business, for instance, hires and officer to perform security functions, the County is willing to allow its equipment to be used, while the business pays the personnel cost. The result is increased law enforcement in Cobb County. Cobb Fire is rarely approached with part-time opportunities, and when it does

FIREFIGHTERS SURVIVOR'S FUND INITIATED

At the August 13 Cobb Board of Commissioner's meeting, a check was presented to the Cobb Firefighters' Association to initiate a fund for the survivors of Cobb Firefighters killed in the line of duty.

The check, in the amount of \$5,271 was a generous gift to be used as "seed money" by Cousins Properties, Inc.

Each year during a fund drive, Wildwood Office Park, owned by Cousins Properties, collects funds from tenants for service projects. This year, Cousins Properties designated the funds raised to be donated to the Cobb Firefighters' Association.

occur, it involves EMS work. In order to offer EMS, medical control must be provided. Our employees working off-duty as EMS providers under not under the guidance, or "covered" by Cobb Fire's medical control. In the past, we have occasionally paid overtime for some of these requests like softball tournaments, but we are usually able to meet these requests with on-duty personnel.

Engineer Dennis Thayer and Lt. Sean Bogess were on hand with Director Arrowood and Chief Denlinger to accept the check on behalf of the Cobb Firefighters' Association.

Thayer stated, "We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Cousins Properties and Wildwood Office Park for their support of their local firefighters and this very worthy cause. It's one of those things where it's nice to know we have initiated this type of assistance for our folks, but hope to never have to use it"



Pictured left to right: Public Safety Director James Arrowood, Chief Becky Denlinger, Janet Brody, Sean Bogess, Dennis Thayer, and Jane Craft.

Q4: HazMat has been approved to expand. When will this happen?

A4: A plan to add a HazMat unit in the southern part of the County has been proposed for fiscal year 2004, but is not yet approved.

COBB FIRE TO THE RESCUE-AGAIN!

On December 15, the Castillo family of Busbee Drive in Acworth lost their home and everything they owned to a rapidly spreading house fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be a short in the clothes dryer.

Beverly Castillo and her 4 children, ages 2 to 13 have become the recipients of the good will of Cobb County residents and businesses.

Significant news coverage of the event was broadcast, and the offers for assistance began to pour in. With many of the calls coming directly to Cobb Fire and no centralized point of contact, Engineer Dennis Thayer and Captain Norm Weber began to coordinate relief efforts.

With the generosity of the City of Marietta Property Management, Kohl's Department Stores, Northstar Church in Kennesaw, and "Acworth Joy", donations of money and clothing were coordinated. Members of Cobb Fire accompanied the Castillo family to Kohl's for a "Shop With A Hero" day the Saturday before Christmas, where each family member was given the opportunity to shop for several items of clothing for themselves.

Station 8 "C" shift hosted a dinner for the family on Christmas Day, where Santa Claus arrived via helicopter and presented presents to the children.

Dennis Thayer remarked, "The generosity of people and businesses in the community is overwhelming. It's hard not to get into the spirit of Christmas when you see total strangers rally around a family in need. We had calls from many individuals and businesses, some who even wished to remain anonymous."

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the assistance to the Castillo family-your generosity did not go unnoticed!

Q6: Why can't we customize our trucks with station macots/symbols?

A6: Chief Heaton advised he is in full support of company pride. However, he also stated that County pride should be foremost to all of us, and looking uniform is professional and brings favorable comments from the public and other departments. Also, the trucks are County property and do not belong to the individual company.

Q7: Why can't we have a one-sized paycheck each payday?

A7: The only possible way to make that happen is to go to a 3-week paycheck. A random poll showed that no one wanted that to happen, so no attempt was made to make that change.

Q8: Are we going to stay in parity with the Police Department and change the FFIII insignia to a Corporal insignia?

A8: FFIII's have already been issued Corporal insignia collar brass. FFIII's, however, will not be addressed as "Corporal." Also, parity involves pay and benefits, not titles.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

By Deputy Chief Mike Ellington

We are continuing to review responses and reference material provided by many of you who have been working with the department's Accreditation Team. Once all drafts have been finalized, we will begin preparing the department's self-assessment manual. This manual will eventually be presented to a Peer Assessment Team appointed by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) to be considered to accredited status.

The self-assessment manual will address each of the 255 performance indicators. A performance indicator demonstrates the way in which something functions. CFAI performance indicators are those measurable activities that CFAI believes are necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of a credible fire department.

The responses provided by the people who are helping us gather information will be used to prepare summaries for each performance indicator. These summaries will make up our self-assessment manual, which we expect to be approximately 400 pages in length. This gives you an idea of the magnitude of this project and how important it is to have the support of everyone in the department.

One of the primary advantages of accreditation is that it enables our elected officials to better understand the local factors and peculiarities that have an effect on the ability of our agency to provide services to the community. A second advantage is that our organization can use this voluntary accreditation process as a means of identifying our usefulness to the community and to provide improved prestige and visibility for fire service activities.

Fire Accreditation is quite similar to Police and 911 Accreditation. The Cobb 911 Communications Center was accredited in 2002, with Cobb Police also in the self-assessment process. Hospitals, colleges, and universities also undergo a similar process. Simply stated, it's a voluntary self-examination process, followed by national assessors taking a close look at everything an agency does. By striving to conform to national standards of excellence, we make ourselves the best agency possible.

We expect to have our self-assessment manual completed by the summer of 2003. Once our department achieves accredited status, we will be required to send extensive annual updates to CFAI. Every five years, departments repeat the process for reaccreditation.

Thanks to all of you who have working so hard to make this process a success!

POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL UPDATE *by Ellen Black*

As you are all probably aware by now, the Operating Guidelines Manual is slowly being replaced with the new Policy & Procedure Manual. On December 2, the first 5 sections were distributed to all stations, facilities, and placed on the Common File (presently saved under L:\CCFES Policy and Procedure Manual).

As of this writing, the manual is about 60% written, with many sections still going through Command Staff editorial review and revision. It is our hope that at the beginning of each month, a new release will be distributed in the same manner it was in December, containing 2 or more sections each time. The intent is that by distributing it in smaller portions, it is easier for department personnel to read, discuss, and train on these sections rather than distribution en masse.

This is a huge undertaking, with many sets of eyes looking at each policy for accuracy and other comments and revisions. I will be back out in the stations shortly soliciting more information and input for sections yet to be written, and I want to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and assistance.

This manual belongs to the entire department, and each person should have a sense of ownership in it. It's what we refer to as a "Living Document", and if done properly, it will always be in various stages of revision. We want this manual to be comprehensive, yet manageable. As situations develop, more subjects will be identified, drafted, and revised. This is not an easy task, and we ask for your input and patience as we all work our way through this never-ending process!

New Fire Headquarters Open House *December 3, 2002*



Chief Denlinger visits with Commissioners Joe Lee Thompson and Bill Askea in the lobby.



Commission Chairman Sam Olens tours the building.



Director Arrowood delivers a welcome to the attendees.



The crowd assembles in the front parking lot for the ceremony.



Chairman Olens tolls the bell on Old Engine 2 to signify the official opening of the building as Chief Denlinger, County Manager David Hankerson, Commissioner Joe Lee Thompson, former Chairman Bill Byrne, and Commissioners Tim Lee and Bill Askea look on.